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**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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Utah State Department of Community and Culture

**State Department Introduced to  
Navajo Commission**

Window Rock, AZ - Members of the Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council met Wednesday with the state's Department of Community and Culture executive director Yvette Donosso Diaz and representatives of the department's divisions and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. By invitation, Diaz attended the meeting to introduce the newly restructured department that includes the State Library, State History, Utah Arts Council, Office of Ethnic Affairs, Division of Indian Affairs and Division of Housing and Community Development.

"The opportunity to meet with the Utah Navajo Commission was very timely," said Diaz adding that the Office of Indian Affairs is presently developing a strategic plan. She said, "At this meeting we wanted to facilitate honest and open dialogue in order to build a strong working relationship. This strategic plan must include the input of Utah Native Americans and tangible goals must be set in order for the Division of Indian Affairs to be effective."

During the meeting, Navajo commissioner Kenneth Maryboy said, "It is an honor to have someone come to us and ask what our needs are. We are faced with concerns and issues." Maryboy is also a Red Mesa Council Delegate and Economic Development vice-chair for the Navajo Nation.

Maryboy's comments were followed by Navajo commissioner Jamie Harvey who said, "We have never been asked what do we need." He added, "This is historical, this is overwhelming to us to have the opportunity to share our needs and I am excited to share this with my public."

Members of the Utah Navajo Commission voiced an interest in a future meeting in Salt Lake City and requested a tour of the facilities and divisions of the Department of Community and Culture.

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